## Fish Passage at the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam

A Mitigation Requirement of the SHEP

**Prepared By the Savannah District Team** 

**US Army Corps of Engineers** 

6 March 2019

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## Why are we here today? A Mitigation Requirement of the SHEP

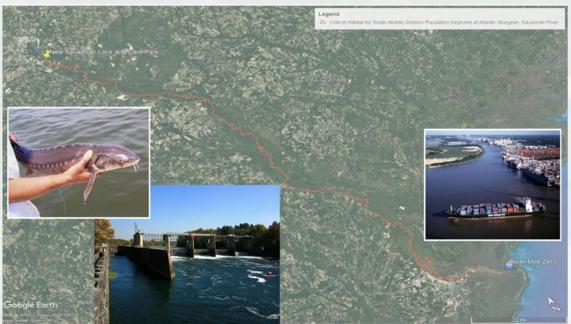


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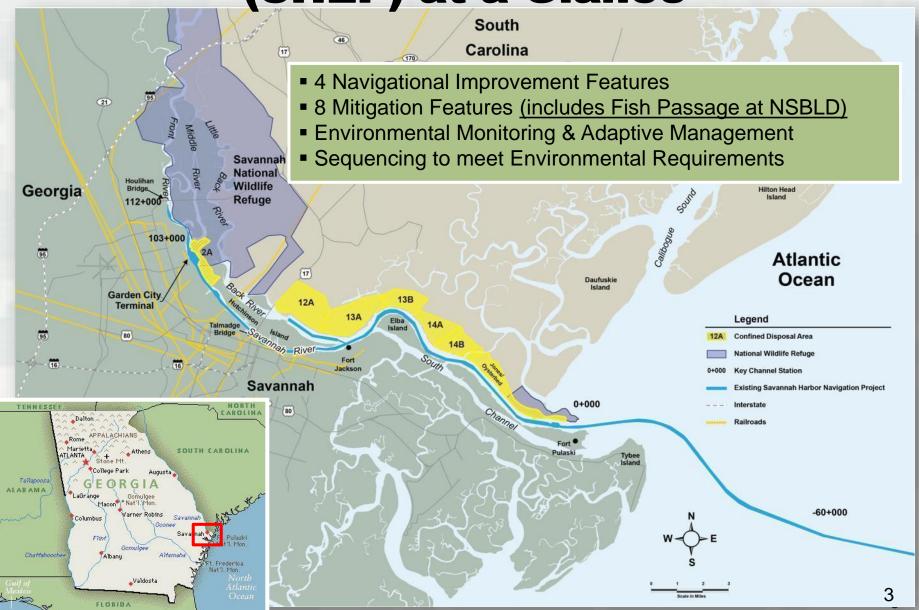
To request public comment on the DRAFT Savannah Harbor Expansion Project, Georgia and South Carolina: Fish Passage at New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam Integrated Post Authorization Analysis Report and Supplemental Environmental Assessment

The harbor deepening is expected to adversely impact habitat for two endangered species, the shortnose and Atlantic sturgeon.





Savannah Harbor Expansion Project (SHEP) at a Glance





## Fish Passage Project Area

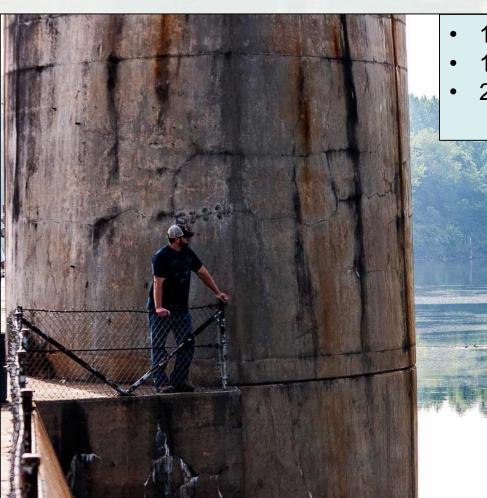




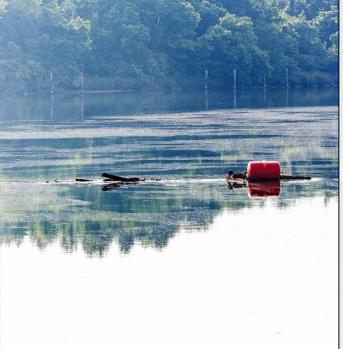


## NSBLD - Cracked and Aged





- 1937 NSBLD Constructed
- 1979 End Commercial Navigation
- 2014 End Lock Use due to Safety Considerations

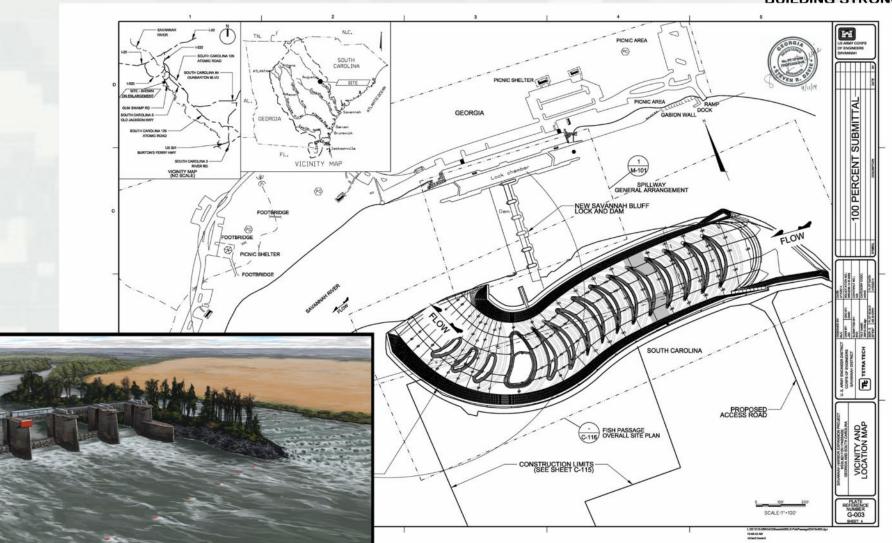




## **Original SHEP Plan**









## The WIIN Act (Dec 2016)



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- De-authorized the Lock and Dam
- Constructs an in channel fish passage
- Preserves functionality of the upstream pool for the purposes of <u>navigation</u>, <u>water supply</u>, <u>recreation</u>, and directs analysis of two options:

#### **EITHER**

Repair of the lock wall and modify the structure

#### <u>OR</u>

Remove entire lock and dam after constructing a water damming structure (or weir)



## Requirements & Constraints



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#### The Fish Passage project must:

- Select the plan with the highest probability of success to meet Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance & limit Federal financial liability
- Be under construction by January 2021 to comply with NOAA-issued Biological Opinion

#### Other limiting factors:

- Federal cost limit is based on overall SHEP cost authorization
- Water level is based on functionality of the pool



#### FISH PASSAGE AT NEW SAVANNAH BLUFF LOCK AND DAM

(A Mitigation Requirement for SHEP)

#### Final Array of Fish Passage Alternatives

1043-1066-

37.4-85.7-80.0-

All elevations @ 5000 cfs

Alternative 1-1 Retain Dam with GA Side Fish Passage

Elevation at NSBLD 112.9 ft NGVD29

> Alternative 2-3 **Fixed Weir**

**Elevation at NSBLD** 109.2 ft NGVD29

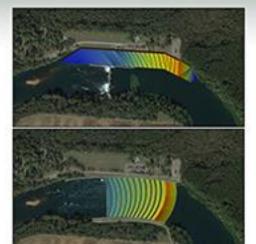
Alternative 2-6A Fixed Weir with Floodplain **Elevation at NSBLD** 

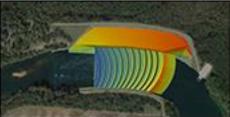
112.4 ft NGVD29

Alternative 2-6 B, C, D Fixed Weir with Dry Floodplain

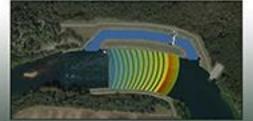
**Elevation at NSBLD** 109.1, 110.1, 111 ft NGVD29

Alternative 2-8 **Gated Bypass Channel Elevation at NSBLD** 112.7 ft NGVD29

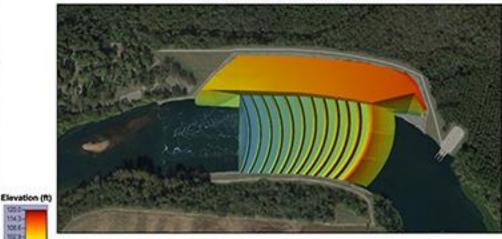


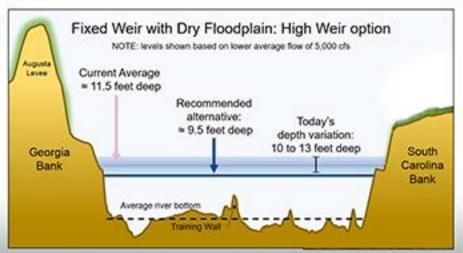






Recommended Plan 2-6D







# Post Authorization Analysis Report Approval Schedule



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Apr - June 2017 June 2017 – May 2018 June 2018 June - Nov 2018 Nov 2018 Nov 2018 – Jan 2019

Scoping – what do we know?

Surveys, Model development, and Alternatives
Analysis

Open House Continued Alternatives Analysis Snea Peek & Shoreline tool

Develop Draft Report Simulation Event



- Public Engagement
- USACE Analysis
- SAD Decision



### What is NEPA?



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The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is a law that requires federal agencies to evaluate environmental impacts before making decisions on any major Federal action, such as the planning and construction of a harbor.

#### What are the key goals of NEPA?

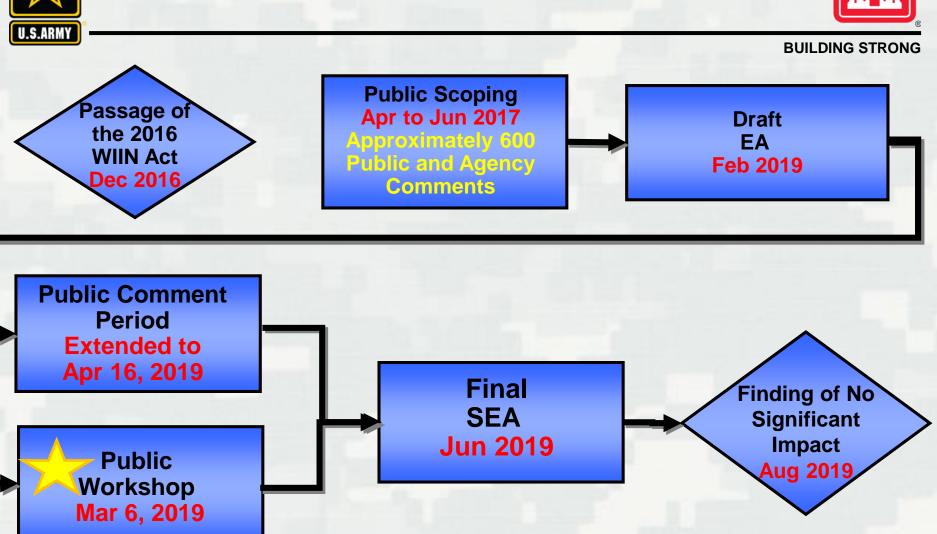
- Assist Federal agency officials with making well-informed
- decisions
- Ensure public and other agency involvement in decisionmaking

Copies of the documents can be downloaded from the District website at <a href="http://www.sas.usace.army.mil/About/DivisionsandOffices/PlanningDivision/PlansandReports.aspx">http://www.sas.usace.army.mil/About/DivisionsandOffices/PlanningDivision/PlansandReports.aspx</a>.



## **Public Participation**







### **How Do I Comment?**



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Formal comments for this document can be recorded multiple ways:

- Submit comment cards and/or letters during this meeting.
- Submit comment cards and/or letters by mail to: Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Planning Division, ATTN: Ms. Robin Armetta (PM-P), 100 West Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah, Georgia 31401-3640.
- Submit comments by e-mail at: <u>CESAS-PD@usace.army.mil</u>.
- If these methods for submitting comments do not work for you, please let us know, and we will make arrangements to use another method.

All Public and Agency Comments are Due By 4 p.m. on April 16, 2019



# How Do I Comment on Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act?



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Formal comments for this document can be recorded multiple ways:

- Submit comment cards and/or letters during this meetings label them Section 106.
- Submit comment cards and/or letters by mail to: Savannah District,
   U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Planning Division, ATTN Ms. Julie
   Morgan (PM-P), 5625 Anderson Hwy, Hartwell, Georgia 30643-5259.
- Submit comments by e-mail at: <u>CESAS-PD@usace.army.mil</u> subject line Section 106.
- Provide your verbal comments to court reporters present tonight.
   Verbal comments will be limited to three minutes, but commenters will have the opportunity to re-enter the line and comment again, if time allows.

All Public and Agency Comments are Due By 4 p.m. on April 16, 2019



## **Examples of What You Could Include in a Comment?**



- What alternative(s) do you prefer and why?
- Is there a resource that was left out that needs to be addressed?
- Are there any other alternatives or modifications to the existing proposal that should have been considered?



#### **Informational Stations**





